



## **Three International Agreements Potentially Addressing your PCBs**

- 1. The Basel Convention - trans-boundary (international) shipments of waste**
- 2. The Rotterdam Convention - prior informed consent (PIC) for shipment of chemicals**
- 3. The Stockholm Convention - Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**



# But Wait . . . . .



- 1. TSCA bans the import/export of PCB waste and the import of most PCBs.**
- 2. The United States is a signatory but not a ratifier of all of these conventions.**
- 3. EPA is preparing to reintroduce implementing legislation to ratify the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.**
- 4. The U.S. has supported the Basel Convention since 1992, however implementing legislation is not in preparation.**



## Basel Convention - Objectives

- to minimize the generation of hazardous wastes in terms of quantity and hazardousness;
- to dispose of them as close to the source of generation as possible;
- to reduce the movement of hazardous wastes.



# Basel Convention - Requirements

1. Parties shipping waste to other parties must determine that the receiving party employs environmentally sound management/disposal of the waste.
2. Parties must notify recipients and receive approval before shipping wastes
3. Parties may not import/export waste from/to non-parties, except through bilateral agreements corresponding to Basel Article 11 agreements.



# Rotterdam Convention

1. Exporter notifies receiving country with detailed information on a “banned or severely restricted” (BSR) chemical prior to shipment.
2. Exporter makes sure export is consistent with conditions/restrictions identified by importing country.



# Stockholm Convention General Objectives

- Elimination POPs from use
- Elimination of POPs stockpiles
- Environmentally Sound Waste Management
- Expanding the list of POPs



# SUMMARY OF PCB REQUIREMENTS IN THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

1. *Remove equipment from use by 2025*
2. *Until removal, restrict uses to certain areas*
3. *Do not import or export except for environmentally sound waste management (ESM)*
4. *Except for maintenance and service do not reuse liquids containing >50 ppm*



## **SUMMARY OF PCB REQUIREMENTS IN THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION (Continued)**

- 5. Dispose of liquids >50 ppm and equipment which contain >50 ppm ASAP but NLT 2028***
- 6. Identify non-liquid PCB articles containing > 50 ppm and manage them and dispose***
- 7. Governments provide a report every five years on progress in eliminating PCBs***
- 8. The reports shall be reviewed by the Conference of the Parties at five year intervals.***





## END USE

**(a) MAKE DETERMINED EFFORTS to eliminate the use of PCBs with the following priorities:**

- (i) identify, label and remove equipment containing >100,000 ppm PCBs and volumes > 5.3 qt.**
- (ii) identify, label and remove equipment containing >500 ppm PCBs and volumes > 5.3 qt.**
- (iii) ENDEAVOR to identify and remove from use equipment containing >50 ppm PCBs and volumes > 1.7 oz.**



## RESTRICT USE



**(b) Promote the following to reduce exposures and risk:**

**(i) intact and non-leaking equipment and in areas where the risk can be minimized and quickly remedied;**

**(ii) Not in areas associated with food or feed;**

**(iii) In populated areas, take all reasonable measures to protect from electrical failure, and conduct inspections for leaks**